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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/549,731	10/25/2006	Stefan Leyen	NY-DNAG-310-US	1384
24972	7590	12/12/2007		
FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI, LLP			EXAMINER	
666 FIFTH AVE			STEWART, JASON-DENNIS NEILKEN	
NEW YORK, NY 10103-3198			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3738	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			12/12/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/549,731

Applicant(s)

LEYEN ET AL.

Examiner

Jason-Dennis Stewart

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 13-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 September 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 19 September 2005.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 14, 15, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 14 and 24 contain open-ended ranges that do not distinctly point out a particular set of numerical values.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 13, 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bunz et al. WO 01/05338.
5. Regarding Claim 13, Bunz discloses a hip joint prosthesis comprising an inner sliding cup made of ceramic material that is surrounded on its outside by a plastic covering (abstract). Other features of the claim are intended use limitations and are not given patentable weight by the examiner.
6. Regarding Claim 19, Bunz illustrates a sliding cup having a stepped structural form on its outside (fig. 2).

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7. Regarding Claim 20, Bunz illustrates the plastic covering embracing the sliding cup at its pen end (fig. 2).

8. Regarding Claim 21, Bunz illustrates a collar of the plastic covering 5 that rests on the upper side of the sliding cup and covers almost half of the upper edge (fig. 2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bunz et al. WO 01/05338 in view of Pope et al. 6,676,704.

11. Regarding Claims 14 – 18, Bunz discloses the invention as claimed and as discussed above. However, Bunz does not disclose surface semicircular depressions with a notch radius of more than .5mm arranged circumferentially on the outside of the sliding cup.

Pope discloses a substrate for attachment to a femoral head and an acetabular comprising of spherical segment depressions with a diameter from .001 in. up to .750 in. (col. 43, ll. 15-35), undulating in section, and circumferentially arranged (fig. 3c) for the purpose of creating a mechanical interlock between adjacent layers of the hip prosthesis (col. 41, ll. 23-25).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention combine the sliding cup of the sandwich insert of Bunz with the undulating

depressions of Pope in order to achieve a mechanical interlock as taught by Pope (col. 41, ll. 23-25).

12. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bunz et al. WO 01/05338 in view of Teinturier 5,041,140.

Bunz discloses the invention as claimed and as discussed above. However, Bunz does not disclose a press fit between the sliding cup and the plastic covering.

Teinturier teaches a press fit between a plastic cup 42 and a metal shell in order to allow the acetabulum unit to adapt to deformations of the skeleton and adapt to them (col. 4, ll. 59-62).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the sliding cup by press fitting it into the plastic covering as taught by Teinturier in order to allow for deformation of the skeleton by the hip prosthesis.

13. Claims 23-24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bunz et al. WO 01/05338 in view of McLean et al. 2004/0054418.

14. Regarding Claim 23, Bunz discloses the invention as claimed and as discussed above. However, Bunz does not disclose an eccentric relationship between the inner and outer form of the sliding cup.

McLean et al. discloses an eccentric relationship between the inner surface 30 and the outer surface 26 of an articulating surface shell in order to improve migration and other properties of the prosthesis.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the sliding cup of Bunz with the eccentric relationship of McLean in

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order to optimize articulating wear properties of the sliding cup relative to the femoral head.

15. Regarding Claim 24, Bunz in view of McLean discloses the invention as claimed and discussed above, however Bunz does not positively recite the range claimed in Claim 24. It has been held that "the normal desire of scientists or artisans to improve upon what is already generally known provides the motivation to determine where in a disclosed set of percentage ranges is the optimum combination of percentages." *In re Peterson*, see MPEP 2144.05, Part II, section A.

Conclusion

16. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure, as per the Notice of References Cited.

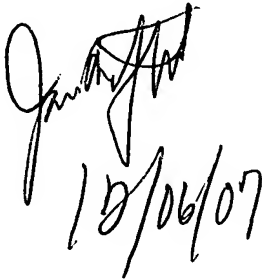
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason-Dennis Stewart whose telephone number is (571)270-3080. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (alt Fridays off) 7:30-5:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott can be reached on (571)272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JS

A handwritten signature, possibly "John Smith", is written above the date "10/06/07".A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian E. Pellegrino".

BRIAN E. PELLEGRINO
PRIMARY EXAMINER